

Message Text

SECRET

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:GQLUMSDEN:NEA:SSOBER:CEJ

APPROVED BY P:JJSISCO

PM - MR. STERN

L/NEA - MR. HUFFMAN

DOD:JNOYES

S/S:JPMOFFAT

DOD/NAVY - ADM. MOORER

DOD/JCS - ADM. ELDER

DOD/GC - MR. FARMAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 071687

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, BA, US

SUBJECT: MIDEASTFOR REASSURANCES

REF: MANAMA 312

1. WE HAVE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED FORMULATION GIVEN YOU BY GOB FOR ADDITIONAL SENTENCE TO THIRD PARAGRAPH OF LETTER WHICH YOU COULD PRESENT TO GOB AS PART OF SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS ON MIDEASTFOR. WE HAVE NOW DETERMINED THAT THE BAHRAINI FORMULATION WOULD NOT RPT NOT ENTAIL COMMITMENT INCONSISTENT WITH USG LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS. NOR DOES IT AFFECT US INHERENT RIGHT OF INDIVIDUAL OR COLLECTIVE SELF-DEFENSE RECOGNIZED BY UN CHARTER.

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2. THEREFORE, IN LIGHT OF OUR DESIRE TO COMPLETE MIDEAST-

FOR NEGOTIATIONS PROMPTLY AND SUCCESSFULLY, YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO ACCEPT FOREIGN MINISTER'S PROPOSAL (PARA 1 REFTEL). YOU SHOULD TELL HIM THAT WE AGREE TO HIS FORMULATION IN RECOGNITION OF THE VARIOUS PROBLEMS WHICH GOB HAS IDENTIFIED IN GAINING ACCEPTANCE OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND PUBLIC OF ITS DECISION FOR MIDEASTFOR TO REMAIN AT BAHRAIN. AS FOR OURSELVES, WE SEE GOB DECISION AS REFLECTING OUR COMMON DESIRE TO CONTINUE AND TO STRENGTHEN

THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES WHICH WE SEE AS CLEARLY TO OUR MUTUAL BENEFIT.

3. FULL TEXT OF LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD READ AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: EXCELLENCY:

I WISH TO EXPRESS THE PLEASURE OF MY GOVERNMENT AT THE CONCLUSION OF DISCUSSIONS WHICH WE HAVE HAD WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS CONCERNING THE STATUS OF THE MIDDLE EAST FORCE. WE ARE PARTICULARLY PLEASED THAT OUR DISCUSSIONS HAVE LED TO MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY UNDERSTANDINGS ON ALL POINTS.

IN A LETTER WRITTEN TO YOU ON DECEMBER 23, 1971, THE THEN U.S. CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, MR. GATCH, SAID THE FOLLOWING:

" I HAVE THE HONOR TO DEFINE THE ROLE OF THE COMMANDER OF THE MIDDLE EAST FORCE WHICH IS TO MANIFEST THE CONTINUING INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE GULF, AND TO VISIT FRIENDLY COUNTRIES THERE, IN THE RED SEA AND INDIAN OCEAN AREAS. I HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED BY MY GOVERNMENT TO ASSURE YOUR EXCELLENCY THAT NO CHANGE IS CONTEMPLATED IN THE ROLE OF THE COMMANDER OF THE MIDDLE EAST FORCE AND FURTHER THAT NO CHANGE WILL BE MADE WITHOUT NOTIFYING THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN."

I WISH TO INFORM YOU THAT THE FOREGOING ASSURANCES REMAIN IN EFFECT. IT REMAINS THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES TO HAVE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL THE STATES OF THE GULF
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AREA BASED ON MUTUAL COOPERATION AND TO SUPPORT THE POLICY OF THE STATES IN THIS REGION TO STRENGTHEN THEIR INDEPENDENCE THROUGH REGIONAL COOPERATION. THE MIDDLE EAST FORCE HAS ALWAYS OPERATED IN THE PAST AND WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE IN THE FUTURE IN THE SPIRIT OF SUPPORT FOR THIS POLICY. THE FACILITIES EXTENDED BY THE BAHRAIN GOVERNMENT TO THE UNITED STATES MIDDLE EAST FORCE WILL NOT BE UTILIZED IN ANY MANNER TO ASSIST OR SUPPORT

DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ANY MILITARY ACTION OR OPERATION
AGAINST NEIGHBORING STATES IN THE GULF AREA.

I WISH ALSO TO EXPRESS THE APPRECIATION OF THE U.S. GOV-
ERNMENT FOR THE HOSPITALITY BAHRAIN HAS SHOWN SINCE THE
LATE 1940'S TO THE SHIPS AND MEN OF THE MIDDLE EAST
FORCE. THE UNITED STATES LOOKS TO THE CONTINUANCE AND
STRENGTHENING OF OUR TRADITIONALLY FRIENDLY RELATIONS
WITH BAHRAIN IN ALL FIELDS. UNQUOTE. COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE.

4. WE WILL CONSIDER NEGOTIATIONS COMPLETED UPON DELIVERY
OF YOUR LETTER AS ABOVE AND BY SUITABLE WRITTEN ACKNOW-
LEDGMENT BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER. KISSINGER

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